

**City of Harrington
MINUTES
City Council Workshop
February 9, 2015**

A workshop with the Harrington City Council was held at Harrington City Hall, 106 Dorman Street, on February 9, 2015 and was attended by the following: Mayor Anthony R. Moyer; Vice Mayor Cheryl J. Lahman; Council Member Duane E. Bivans; Council Member Amy L. Minner; Council Member Kenneth W. Stubbs; Ruth Peterman, Police Resource Manager; Teresa Tieman, City Manager; Dean Gary, Accountant; and Kelly Blanchies, Clerk of Council.

Also present: Dave Naples, City Building Inspector, Remington, Vernick, and Beach; Barbara Bullock; Charles Carr; and Jennifer Antonik.

Council Member Fonda Coleman and Council Member Charles W. Porter were absent.

Mayor Moyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

2012 International Residential, Building, and Property Maintenance Codes

The City Building Inspector stated that jurisdictions in Delaware are adopting the 2012 edition of the International Codes. Mayor Moyer asked why the City would not adopt the 2015 editions. The City Building Inspector stated that the City could adopt the 2015 since the biggest changes were made between 2006 and 2009. The City Manager stated that in order to stay consistent with Kent County and other municipalities, the City should adopt the 2012 editions.

Mayor Moyer asked if adopting the 2015 Code would make the City eligible for more energy grants. The City Building Inspector stated that he did not think so since the State determines the energy code.

Council Member Bivans asked about the 2009 edition. The City Building Inspector stated that there were not a lot of material changes in that edition. There have been some safety improvements in more recent editions.

The City Building Inspector recommended against adopting the fire sprinkler requirements, which other municipalities have also not adopted.

Council Member Minner asked if adopting the International Codes with little modification is too stringent. The City Building Inspector replied no, the International Code Council recommends adoption without modification.

Discussion occurred regarding certifications of planning departments and Kent County's footer exceptions.

Council Member Minner asked if there were any major changes to the Property Maintenance Code. The City Building Inspector replied that there is nothing significant.

Council Member Minner asked about the Manufactured Homes appendix. The City Building Inspector replied that the City is not going to enforce that appendix.

Railroad station

Mayor Moyer stated that he is trying to get a meeting with the Chief Engineer about cleaning up the railroad yard and asked if any violations had been issued. The City Manager stated that the City cannot issue violations against a federal government entity and that it is best to approach it through the Senators and Representatives.

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the railroad had agreed before to clean up the yard, but it has not happened.

Budget

The City Manager presented a latest estimate of the current budget as of December 2014.

Mayor Moyer asked about outstanding taxes. Vice Mayor Lahman stated that it is one hundred seventy-nine thousand dollars (\$179,000).

The City Manager stated that this is not a revised budget; it just shows where the City is now.

Discussion occurred regarding specific line items in the budget.

Council Member Minner asked about the interfund receipts. The City Manager stated that those pay for the work that is done and paid for from the General Fund that is for the Water and Sewer Funds. An example is the Mayor and Council salaries which come from the General Fund, but a significant amount of the Council's time is spent on water and sewer issues.

The City Manager stated that building permit revenue is not covering the building permit expenses so that will have to be looked at with the next budget.

The City Manager stated that the amount of water the City is producing and the Kent County sewer bill are both lower because residents are conserving more.

Charter change – term limits for Mayor and Council

Mayor Moyer stated that he would like the City Council to consider the term limits of 2 terms for the Mayor and 3 terms for Council Members with the option to have another term if unopposed.

Council Member Minner asked how to handle current Council Members. Mayor Moyer stated that it would not be retroactive. The details would have to be worked out with the Council.

Mayor Moyer stated that there previously were term limits. Council Member Stubbs stated that they were taken away, because there was a lack of interest in people running for office.

Council Member Bivans stated that there would be a candidate filing deadline issue. Mayor Moyer stated that the details would be worked out with Council before a change was adopted.

Vice Mayor Lahman stated that the Mayor and Council positions are elected, so if the public is not satisfied then a new person can be elected.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

City Council Comments

Council Member Minner thanked the Police Department for offering a meeting place for those selling goods online.

Council Member Bivans warned that small pets are being stolen from yards.

There being no further business, the City Council Workshop adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Blanchies
Clerk of Council